

July 1, 1958 SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT

of the

STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION COMMISSION

July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1957

STAFF

STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION COMMISSION

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July 1, 1958 REPORT OF THE MONTANA STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION COMMISSION

Montana ended its second fiscal year under the Library Services Act on July 1st, 1958. The State Agency is pleased to present the following stimulating report of progress:

72,164 people in nine counties now have county wide library service in areas where no such system existed prior to the beginning of the State Plan under the Library Services Act. These counties are: Custer, Dawson, Petroleum, Pondera, Ravalli, Lake, Granite, Mineral and Powell.

Four counties with some library service from established county libraries are now receiving greatly improved and extended service.

Population figures in these four counties total 77,762. These counties are Missoula, Mineral, Libby and Flathead.

Two bookmobiles are in operation in the two existing federations of libraries and are giving excellent service to the rural areas. Montana's bookmobiles purchased under the Plan were the first in the nation to get rolling.

State-wide services from the Commission have been increased to a considerable degree.

The problem of adequate housing for the State Agency was resolved in December, 1957. Headquarters were moved from the two small crowded rooms in one of the temporary buildings on the Montana State University campus to the present spacious quarters at South Ave. and Middlesex in Missoula. Necessary furniture and equipment was purchased in the preceding year so funds have been freed to provide personnel to implement the program and to increase the book collection to some degree. Demand far exceeds the supply, however, and

future plans must provide a large amount to satisfy this need.

29,290 books were circulated from Headquarters to libraries, schools and individuals, an increase of 30% over the previous year. Circulation records showing use in the schools and small libraries are not available so it is only possible to report with accuracy on the number sent out during the year.

The Commission staff traveled 15,980 miles within the state, making 93 visits to public libraries. 50 of these were initial visits, 20 included conferences with the library boards or the county commissioners who serve as the Board. In 13, conferences were held with library friends. On 4 occasions, help was given extensively with weeding. Four mending clinics were held during these visits.

At the request of the Board, the Commission staff visited three of the State Institution libraries: The School for the Deaf and Blind, State Hospital at Galen and the Orphans Home at Twin Bridges. Advice and counsel was given on improved services. Since July 1st, a visit was made to the State Prison Library and a report given in the Legislative Council.

Five general workshops and problem clinics were held during the year, plus two that were a part of the Montana State Library Association program at Billings: one on bookmobile service and one for library trustees.

A total of nine talks on Montana's plan under the Library Services Act were given to interested local groups. At state meetings, the Commission was represented at the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs, the Montana Institute of the Arts, P.T.A. Council, Home Demonstration Council, Family Life Conference, 4-H Leaders Conference,

Montana Academy of Arts and Sciences and two meetings of the Association of Student Librarians. Program time was allowed the Commission representative at most of these meetings.

Out of state trips were made to Chicago for A.L.A. Midwinter, to Seattle for both the P.N.B.C. Board of Managers and the P.N.L.A. Library Development project.

Thirty-one programs on library service have been provided by the loan of the films: Books for All, The Magic Number and The Impressionable Years. When possible, these were accompanied by exhibits, presenting graphically the services of the State Agency and pointing up patterns of cooperation.

A display of books by Montana Authors is on loan at the Commission and is in wide use; the Travelling Exhibit of Childrens Books is a continuing service, borrowed last year for 15 localities; two scrapbooks, small posters and a variety of exhibit material have been sent out over a wide territory on many occasions.

MONTANA LIBRARIES, the quarterly publication of the State Agency has been increased from 350 copies per issue to 1,500. Starting in June, letters to each public librarian are now being sent to supplement the information in the quarterly. One letter was written to all school librarians and will be resummed each month in the fall. 2,500 copies of Questions and Answers on the Library Services Act in Montana have been compiled. A printed handbook for Library Trustees has had wide distribution and an up to date directory of libraries and librarians has been broadened to include all school libraries.

Reading lists include:

Books about Montana or by Montanans, 1957

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Recommended reading for P.T.A.

Reference list on Stories for Story Telling Museum Techniques (prepared for the M.I.A. History Workshop)

In preparation are lists for all Home Demonstration Clubs and another for members of the Montana Institute of the Arts.

Thousands of mimeographed releases have gone out this past year, in cooperation with Mr. Miles, Chairman of National Library Week, Mrs. Graybill, Chairman for Montana for A.A.L.T., Home Demonstration Clubs, Montana Federation of Women's Clubs, Friends of the Library, Montana Library Association, Montana Institute of the Arts and the State Department of Public Instruction. Besides regular releases to all radio stations and newspapers, articles have appeared in each issue of the Montana Parent Teacher and in two issues of Montana Education.

\$2,600 has been spent for films for the state film circuit which will start service in September, 1958, with Great Falls as a center.

A Photocopy machine has been placed in the Missoula Public Library and lists of the holdings in periodicals has been sent to every library in the state. Photocopies of any magazine articles in the Missoula collection are available to every library on request.

The Commission has become a "book bank" for the state. Duplicate copies of gift books and withdrawals in good condition are now sent to headquarters. At intervals, lists of these books will be sent to the libraries so that selection can be made for replacements.

Not only is there a gratifying interest in the state in improving library service (61 written requests for advice and counsel and more invitations to visit than time will permit, besides the expression of interest on every visit that has been made) but there are concrete

steps toward extension of services. The Carnegie Library in Miles City and the Glendive Public Library both have contracts with the county to extend service to all rural residents. A contract between the Great Falls Library with Conrad and Pondera County is now a reality.

Two federations of libraries are now in existence, with four additional areas in the planning stage. Miles City and the seven surrounding counties will be next in the plan.

In the NORTHWEST MONTANA FEDERATION OF LIBRARIES, two counties with four libraries have joined together in a plan of cooperation: The Carnegie Public Library and the Flathead County Library in Kalispell; the Whitefish Public Library - all three in Flathead County and the Lincoln County Library at Libby. Mrs. Robert Herrig is coordinator, with Libby as Headquarters for the Federation.

Circulation records have tripled this past year in Northwest Montana, according to Inez Herrig's report. Cooperative ordering, processing and cataloging has been done on a total of over 10,000 books. These were purchased by both local and federal funds and processed by the coordinator at Libby. Regular meetings are held for the purpose of book selection and an exchange of ideas. These are of immense value to the participating libraries, according to the reports of the librarians.

Mildred Grawe, Flathead County Librarian, says "the year of Federal aid has been of great benefit to us in many ways, first of all in increased circulation and reading. Many rural area children were introduced to library books. The majority of the children had never seen a bookmobile, so were very much interested. At the end of the

school year we had quite a number of letters from children thanking us for the use of books and the bookmobile. One parent said "It's been the best thing that ever happened to this town!"

"In the summer when the bookmobile arrives, the children run in from all directions. One day we got lost in the woods and the family living at the end of the road helped us get turned around - then the six children from this family got excited about the books and have been regular library patrons ever since.

"In material ways we have been helped too by the acquisition of much needed bookcases, 8 in all. Also a fine charging desk which replaced an ordinary office desk, now being used by the librarian. A four drawer pamphlet file is a great help.

"Our Branch Library in Columbia Falls needed a new roof and we were permitted to have that, since our own supply of funds had run out.

"Having the books arrive processed makes all the difference to us here. We now have time to give our patrons a great deal of personal attention; time for careful book collection - Time, in fact to give good library service to all."

From the Carnegie City Library in Kalispell, Jean Sturdvant writes,

"This library was badly in need of a room in which the children's story hour could be conducted and also space where meetings could be held - Library Board Meetings, Federation meetings, etc. So the Federal funds fulfilled a great need here and enabled us to execute plans which it probably would have taken years of planning and saving to achieve.

"This activities room will also provide a meeting place for a few small outside groups. These will have to be limited however, as the room

is to be primarily for library activities, and will also be used as an overflow reading room during the busy winter months.

"The federal funds paid for the remodeling and furnishing of the room and for storm windows. The room has now been in use about 8 months. In the future, it is hoped, there will be regular Girl Scout activities taking place there as well as those of other organizations."

The Whitefish Library moved to attractive new quarters this past year.

Mabel Engelter, Librarian says "The opportunity for Whitefish to be a part of the Northwest Montana Federation of Libraries has been an answer to a prayer. Furniture, equipment, audio-visual aids were provided for us that we could not possibly have had otherwise.

"Another particularly beneficial service is the centralized processing of books. Until a month ago, the entire staff consisted of the one librarian. The savings effected by larger discounts with cooperative borrowing and the time saved by having the books arrive ready for circulation, help us more than I can say.

"My personal feeling is that the Whitefish Public Library has advanced twenty years by the program under the Library Services Act. In the short time we have been in our new quarters, circulation has shown a 74% increase in comparison with the same period a year ago. The children particularly seem to have the doors of a whole new world open to them. The entire community is proud of our fine plant and our good service. All of us in Whitefish are deeply grateful."

The FIVE VALLEYS FEDERATION includes seven counties: Missoula, Mineral, Ravalli, Sanders, Lake, Granite, and Powell.

Evelyn Swant, Librarian of the Missoula City-County Library and Coordinator of Five Valleys, reports "Benefits to the existing libraries and

to the surrounding rural areas are very great indeed in this federation.

"Book collections of the Hamilton, Darby, Mineral County and Thompson Falls Libraries have been weeded and recataloged during fiscal, 1958.

"The reference collections of all of the libraries have been surveyed and needs purchased so that each library now has the basic reference books of factual and biographical information.

"Equipment needs were surveyed and purchases made so each library now has the necessary equipment to operate efficiently.

"Building needs and repairs were made where local funds were not available.

"Meetings under the sponsorship of S.L.E.C. for librarians, trustees and interested friends have been held at intervals for the discussion of needs, library problems, book ordering and use of reference books.

"In August 1957, a technical processing center was set up at Commission Headquarters and since that time books purchased by the cooperating libraries have been delivered processed and with catalog cards - ready for the shelves. Considerable saving to each library has been effected by the additional discount made possible by cooperative buying. A total of 7491 books, purchased with federal, state and local funds have been ordered, processed and cataloged during fiscal 1958.

"The bookmobile is a most welcome service. Since July 1, 1957, the unit has traveled 21,626 miles and has circulated a total of 26,448 to 1,400 families. An excellent publicity program with posters, news releases to radio and newspapers has done much to popularize this fine service.

"Both federations have instituted the use of courtesy cards so that any borrower of any of the participating libraries may use the services

of the other libraries when he is in that community."

Cooperation is the very essence of the program in Montana and the above report gives fine evidence of the impressive results of joint effort.

## APPROPRIATIONS

The appropriation approved by the Legislative Assembly in 1957 and signed by the Governor totalled \$62,346 for the biennium. The fund was allocated as follows:

Salary and Wages	\$35,880.00
Social Security	850.00
P.E.R.S.	1,346.00
Services to the Blind	7,200.00
Repairs and Replacements	400.00
Operation	8,070.00
Capital Outlay	8,600.00

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